BOOKS
(the monthly newspaper)
Vol. 3 No. 4 25c
New York, May 1966

After almost two years and many rejections, Mark Lane has found a publisher for his critique of the Warren Commission inquiry into the murders of President Kennedy, police officer J. D. Tippit, and Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Commission's 26-volume report concluded that Oswald had killed the President and officer Tippit in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Lane's research and analysis of the evidence in the 26 volumes led him to the conclusion that there is no credible evidence to show that Oswald killed either the President or officer Tippit. He told BOOKS:

"I do not know who killed them and I have no theories and no speculations."

Lane says that a man who may have invaluable information and who said that he was eager to testify before the Chief Justice in Washington is Jack Ruby. When he was questioned in the Dallas jail, Ruby told the Commission that if he was taken to Washington he would tell all that he knew about "the conspiracy" to assassinate the President. The Commission refused to let Ruby testify anywhere other than in the jail in spite of Ruby's statement that he was not free to tell the truth there. (Ruby's death sentence—for killing Oswald in a Dallas police station—is on appeal.)

Lane's critique, "Rush to Judgment," will be published in September by Holt, Rinehart & Winston, which is this year celebrating its 100th anniversary. It will be published simultaneously in England by The Bodley Head, the venerable house that owns world publishing rights to the critique.

Arthur Cohen, editor-in-chief of Holt's trade department, told BOOKS:

"We're now up to a first printing of 30,000 copies and I think it will be an extraordinary experience."

The London Observer has observed that Lane's international lectures refuting the Warren Report have made him "one of the most disliked men in America." Conor Cruise O'Brien, the English critic who has read Lane's manuscript, has written in New Statesman: "In an argument of devastating, cumulative force, Mr. Lane demonstrates that in case after case the Commission ignored or twisted the evidence before it, in order to reach a pre-ordained conclusion, and that, in particular, it ignored a substantial body of evidence which seemed to point in the direction of conspiracy. When [Mr. Lane's book] appears, I believe it will be demonstrated that the Warren Report bears the same relation to the facts about Kennedy's assassination as Adlai Stevenson's report to the UN bore to the reality of the Bay of Pigs."

Hugh Trevor-Roper, Regius Professor of Modern History, Oxford University, writes in the book's introduction that after reading all of the evidence he too is convinced that "there was no avowable evidence" that pointed toward Oswald when Oswald was being sought by the Dallas police a few minutes after the President was shot. In the absence of such evidence, Trevor-Roper writes, "we must conclude that the Dallas police had undisclosed reasons for seeking Oswald."

Lane's critique will be preceded into

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Immediately after President Kennedy and Governor Connally were admitted to Parkland Memorial Hospital, a bullet was found on one of the stretchers. Medical examination of the President's body revealed that one of the bullets had entered just below his shoulder to the right of the spinal column at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees downward, that there was no point of exit, and that the bullet was not in the body.

EXCLUSIVE: Excerpt from hitherto secret F.B.I. report on the assassination of President Kennedy indicates F.B.I. and Warren Commission reports are not consistent.

"Is it absolutely necessary to have a literary allusion?"
—ADOLPH EICHMANN, IN KURT VONNEGUT, JR.'S 'MOTHER NIGHT'

Two Books Question Validity of Warren Report on Kennedy Murder

(continued from page one)

the marketplace in late June by Edward Jay Epstein's "Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth." Epstein's research and direction were stimulated by Lane. Epstein was a student at Cornell when Lane lectured there.

In his study, Mr. Epstein discovered that the official version of the Kennedy assassination failed to contend with serious contradictions presented by the evidence. According to his publisher, The Viking Press, Mr. Epstein traces the process by which the official story came into being and he proposes an explanation based on the concept of "political truth: The Commission, sincerely convinced that the national interest would best be served by the termination of rumors, and predisposed by its make-up and by the pressure of time not to search very deeply, failed to answer the essential questions about the tragedy."

In the Warren Report, it is noted

Of principal importance was the five-volume report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, submitted on Dec. 9, 1963, which summarized the results of the investigation conducted by the Bureau immediately after the assassination.

The F.B.I. report is never referred to again in the Warren Report. Both Lane and Epstein focus on the F.B.I. report, which was recently declassified.

The Commission's case against Oswald, Lane writes, was predicated on the conclusion that the bullet that hit Governor Connally, who was riding on a jump seat in front of the President, first struck the President's neck and exited at his throat. In other words, Oswald fired from above and behind the President.

The F.B.I. report says:

Immediately after President Kennedy and Governor Connally were admitted to Parkland Memorial Hospital, a bullet was found on one of the stretchers. Medical examination of the President's body revealed that one of the bullets had entered just below his shoulder to the right of the spinal column at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees downward, that there was no point of exit, and that the bullet was not in the body.

If the F.B.I. report is true, Lane says, the President was struck by at least three bullets, which the Warren Report denies. The Warren Report says that one bullet passed through the President's body and struck the Governor and a second bullet smashed the President's head. Apparently a third bullet fell out of the President's back and onto the stretcher. The Warren Report says that one bullet struck a curb and wounded a by-stander. Lane says that F.B.I. firearms experts admit that it would have been impossible for one assassin to fire off at least four bullets with the antiquated alleged assassination rifle in the just under six seconds of firing that officials say took place.

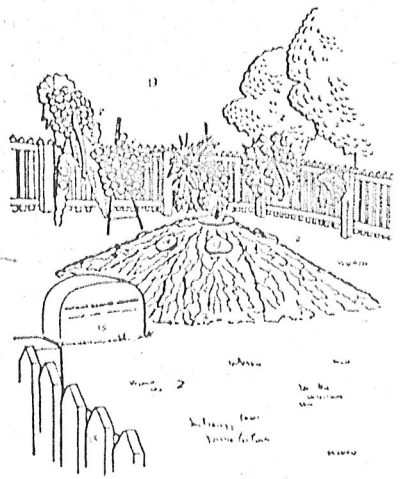

Illustration of President Kennedy's grave from "Our Nation's Capital Coloring Book," published by The United States Capitol Historical Society, distributed by Grosset & Dunlap. In a letter to the Society, Vice President Humphrey wrote: "Learning while doing—increasing knowledge while performing art and color work—this is a wonderful combination."

Lane also says:

"The autopsy on President Kennedy was performed in Bethesda Naval Hospital by Commander James J. Humes on the night of the assassination. In the National Archives, there is a report signed by Commander Humes in which he states he destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes relating to the autopsy conducted. When he testified before the Warren Commission, Commander Humes told the Commission that he had had color photographs and x-rays taken of the President's body since they would be invaluable in assisting him to determine the nature of the wounds. However, he also told the Commission he was never allowed to see the photographs. The Commission itself never saw the photographs or the x-rays. Perhaps the determination that the photographs should not be shown to the commission and that the original autopsy notes should be burned was made because the F.B.I. report was accurate, that there was no point of exit for the bullet that struck the President's back. The decision not to show the photographs to the commission was made by President Johnson. The photographs are in Robert Kennedy's possession."

Lane is also producing a motion picture about the assassination. It too will be called "Rush to Judgment." The director is Emile de Antonio, who co-directed "Point of Order," the prize-winning film on the McCarthy-Army hearings.

Lane says: "We took a film unit to Dallas, expecting that Dallas would be the victim in the film. But we found that the majority of the witnesses to the assassination and to the murder of Tippit did not believe the Warren Report and were very frank in explaining why. In a sense, then, the Dallas citizens are the heroes of the film.

"One witness was S. M. Holland, a supervisor of Union Terminal Railroad in Dallas. He was stationed on an overpass in front of the President's vehicle and was quoted in the Warren Report as having testified that immediately after the shots he ran off the overpass to see if there was anyone behind a nearby wooden fence and that he did not see anyone. In an interview he filmed with us, Holland says that the Commission distorted his testimony. He says that he knows that at least one shot came from behind the wooden fence. He says he heard a shot and saw a puff of smoke come from behind the fence and that everyone with him on the overpass believed the shots came from behind the fence."

Lane and de Antonio are planning to send a print of their film to each of the seven members of the Commission, including the Chief Justice, and invite them to rebut any portion of the film they would like. "We will guarantee to insert their filmed rebuttal, unchanged and unedited, into the final footage," Lane says.

Lane and de Antonio say they noted a peculiar reaction by the Dallas police to their investigatory and filming activities. "The police totally ignored our efforts to take statements of witnesses to the assassination. We were even permitted to film from a helicopter flying low over the assassination scene. However, when we sought to film witnesses to the Tippit killing, the Dallas police showed great interest and in fact interfered with those efforts."